

**State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
750 Hearst Castle Rd  
San Simeon, CA 93452

**PROJECT TITLE:** Leffingwell Trail Stairway and Moonstone Beach Stairway Rehabilitation

**LOCATION:** Hearst San Simeon State Park

**COUNTY:** San Luis Obispo

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Repair and re-stabilize eroded and storm-damaged sections of the Leffingwell Trail, the wooden stairways at the Leffingwell Landing northern day-use parking area and at Moonstone Beach within Hearst San Simeon State Park to restore public access to the beach and to make portions of the trail comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the "California State Parks Accessibilities Guidelines".

**At Leffingwell Trail, work will:**

- Import up to 19 cubic yards of class 2 road base, 7 cubic yards of 6 inch diameter gabion rock, spread, compact and cap with 150 cubic yards of decomposed granite and clay binder to re-contour, out-slope, and re-establish up to 1,500 feet by 4 foot wide existing trail tread. Redistribute excavated soils on site within the re-contoured trail tread.
- Excavate up to 40 cubic feet of soil, install 6 inch gabion rock to install up to four (4) water diversion channels with maximum dimensions of 10 feet long, two feet wide, and 6 inches deep; distribute the excavated soils on site within the re-contoured trail tread .
- Remove up to twenty (20) existing, non-functioning, wood, in-ground steps (water bars) to install up to twenty six (26) 4 inch x 8 inch x 8 foot in-ground pressure treated Douglas fir retaining steps approximately 9 feet apart, secured by 4 foot long, 5/8 inch diameter re-bar.
- Install up to 2,272 feet of pressure treated wood landscape edging along each side of the 1,136 foot universally accessible segment of trail to maintain the trail surface.
- Install one (1) ADA van accessible parking sign at Fire House Hill trailhead parking area and two (2) Accessible Trail signs on each end of the universal trail.

**At Leffingwell Stairway, work will:**

- Install gabion rock baskets and pour up to six (6) cubic yards of concrete between the exposed rock substrate and stairway support posts and risers to stabilize the structure. Install a five cubic foot concrete landing at the base of stairway.
- Repair three (3) and replace twelve (12) box steps on the existing stairway. Replace two (2) existing 30 foot hand railings with 4" x 6" recycled, rounded trex or equivalent.
- At the top of the stairway, re-contour the landing and install two (2) 24 inch high redwood retaining walls totaling 24 feet in length along the bluff edge and trail edge to slow erosion and re-direct run-off. Excavate up to 10 post holes each approximately 2 feet in depth to relocate and install safety railing and 4" x 6" redwood retaining wall support posts.
- Install up to four (4) 4 inch x 8 inch x 8 foot redwood retaining steps ranging in length from four feet to ten feet and secure in the ground with 4 foot long, 5/8 inch diameter re-bar, fill with class 2 road base and cap with compacted, decomposed granite and clay binder.

**At Moonstone Beach Stairway, work will:**

- Install an eight (8) cubic foot concrete landing at the base of stairway and an 8 foot by 14 inch by 14 inch mudsill abutment, secured by four foot long, 5/8 inch diameter rebar, at the bluff top landing..
- Remove the existing stairway. Excavate up to six (6) post holes to a depth of 3 feet and diameter of 8 inches, using existing post holes where feasible, to install up to six 6 inch pressure treated Douglas fir or equivalent peeler core posts in concrete, attach two (2) twenty foot long stringers, and attach up to sixteen (16) five foot long, fourteen inch wide steps and eight inch high risers to reconstruct the stairway.

- Install up to 50 feet of safety hand railings using 4" x 6" recycled, rounded trex or equivalent and attach mid-rails on each side of the stairway.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** San Luis Obispo Coast District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 1 & 4 Section: 15301 & 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public facilities involving no expansion of use beyond that existing; minor public alterations in the condition of lands, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as "trail or road repairs" and "trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

**CONTACT:** Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator  
San Luis Obispo Coast District

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**Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent**

**DATE** 6/4/12